

Lost Continent

A comic book cover for 'Lost Continent'. The title is in large, stylized white letters with a blue outline, set against a red background. Below the title, a woman with dark hair, wearing a yellow headscarf and black sunglasses, is shown in profile, aiming a bow. She is wearing a green jacket. In front of her, a man with dark hair, wearing a white shirt and a red tie, is also aiming a bow. They are both looking towards the right. In the background, a large, bald, yellow-skinned figure with a menacing expression is visible. The scene is set in a jungle with green foliage.

Book Two
of Six



LOST CONTINENT BOOK 2 OF 6, OCTOBER 1990.

Published by Eclipse International

P.O. Box 1099, Forestville CA 95436.

Greg S. Balsden, editor

Catherine Yronwode, editor-in-chief • Dean Mullaney, publisher.

Originally published in Japan as The Last Continent.

Copyright © 1990 Akihiro Yamada and Tokyo Sanselsha.

English translation Copyright © 1990 Studio Proteus.

Cover painting Copyright © 1990 Akihiro Yamada.

All other material Copyright © 1990 Eclipse Enterprises, Inc.

All rights reserved.

The lunar corona-burst colophon and name "Eclipse" are registered trademarks of Eclipse Enterprises, Inc.

Lost Continent logo designed by Tom Orzechowski.

In this English edition of Lost Continent, some artwork has been reversed to read left-to-right for the American audience.




Akihiro Yamada's
LOST CONTINENT

Art and Story by Akihiro Yamada
Translated by Alan Gleason and Toren Smith
Lettered and Retouched by Tom Orzechowski
Edited by Greg S. Baisden

Originally published as *The Last Continent*
by Tokyo Sanseisha





TYPHOON
NUMBER FIVE,
WHICH FORMED IN
THE CAROLINE
ISLANDS, HAS GROWN
INTO A MAJOR STORM
WITH HUNDRED-MILE-
PER-HOUR WINDS
NEAR THE CENTER,
AND GUSTS OF UP
TO ONE HUNDRED
AND FIFTY
MILES PER
HOUR.



THERE
AREN'T
ANY
WILD
DOGS
IN THAT
AREA.

--JAPAN
METEOROLOGICAL
AGENCY
WARNS
ALL SHIPS
SAILING IN THE
VICINITY TO
RIG FOR A
STORM--

TAK

KIRINO
CAME
TO TELL
ME SOME-
THING.

AND
HE WAS
MURDERED
BECAUSE
OF IT.

THAT'S
WHAT I
THINK.

TAK

THIS
IS A REAL
EXAMPLE OF
WHAT THEY
CALL THE
"ARCHAEOLOGIST'S
BLUES."



YOU MEAN, LIKE
DIGGING UP A
FOSSIL WITH A
SHOEPRINT IN IT, OR
FINDING A ROCK FROM
THE CARBONIFEROUS
PERIOD WITH A
GOLD COIN
INSIDE?



RIGHT,
A TOTALLY
ANACHRONISTIC
DISCOVERY.
IT'S GOT ME
BAFFLED,
HAZEKURA.

TO BE
HONEST,
I WISH I
HADN'T
AGREED TO
THE POLICE
REQUEST FOR
AN EXPERT
OPINION.



"BASED ON
THE TRACKS
LEFT AT THE
SITE, ONE HAS
TO CONCLUDE
THAT THE
KILLER WASN'T
A DOG--
IT WAS A
CAT."



"AND A
RATHER
LARGE
ONE,
TOO..."


"YOU
MEAN,
LIKE A
TIGER OR
LEOPARD
...??"

"I WISH! THERE
WOULD BE ANY
NUMBER OF
PLAUSIBLE
EXPLANATIONS
FOR THAT. BUT A
HUGE BEAST, OF
THE CAT FAMILY,
WITH THIRTY-
CENTIMETER
TUSKS...?"

"WHAT
ANIMAL
FITS THAT
DESCRIPTION,
James?"

"I DON'T
EVEN
WANT TO
THINK
ABOUT
IT..."

"I
MEAN,
IT'S
INSANE..."



"WHO'S GOING TO BELIEVE THAT A SABRETOOTH TIGER, A CREATURE EXTINCT FOR *FIFTY THOUSAND* YEARS, COULD APPEAR IN TWENTIETH CENTURY TOKYO AND ATTACK SOMEONE...?"



HEY, I
HAD NO IDEA
YOU HAD
SUCH A NICE
SET-UP
HERE AT
NITTO U...



YEAH,
BUT I'M
HARDLY
EVER
HERE...

SO--
HOW
DID IT
GO?
FIND
ANY-
THING?



SOICHI
KIRINO,
BORN IN
1910 IN
KAMAKURA
CITY...

...FORMERLY
A MASTER
SERGEANT
IN THE
ARMY.



WITH
THE KISKA
GARRISON
DURING THE
WAR, ASSIGNED
TO THE
GERTRUDE
COVE
AREA.



REPORTED
M.I.A. DURING
THE KISKA
EVACUATION
ON JULY 28,
1943...

... BUT ALSO
REPORTED
DISCHARGED
IN 1954.

NO RECORD
OF HIS
WHEREABOUTS
IN THE
INTERVENING
ELEVEN
YEARS.



THAT'S
ALL,
huh?

THERE'S NO
DOCUMENTATION
WHATSOEVER ON
HIS YEARS WITH
THE ARMY RESEARCH
INSTITUTE. OUR
RESEARCH DEPART-
MENT AT THE
PAPER CAME UP
DRY, TOO---
NOTHING IN
THE MORGUE
AT ALL.

KISKA
...

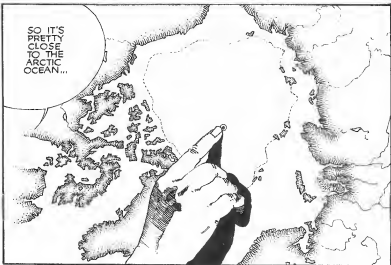
KISKA,
eh...

WHAT...?

Hmm...

THAT'S
IN THE
ALEUTIANS,
ISN'T
IT?

SO IT'S
PRETTY
CLOSE
TO THE
ARCTIC
OCEAN...



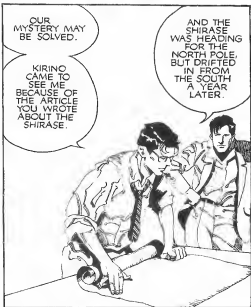
ARE YOU
SUGGESTING
... ?



OUR
MYSTERY MAY
BE SOLVED.

KIRINO
CAME TO
SEE ME
BECAUSE OF
THE ARTICLE
YOU WROTE
ABOUT THE
SHIRASE.

AND THE
SHIRASE
WAS HEADING
FOR THE
NORTH POLE,
BUT DRIFTED
IN FROM THE
SOUTH
A YEAR
LATER.







DON'T
GET
UPSET,
BUT--



I ASKED
THE
RESEARCH
DEPARTMENT
TO CHECK
YOU OUT
ALONG WITH
KIRINO.



AS A
JOURNALIST...

... WELL,
PERSONALLY,
TOO-- I FIND
PROFESSOR
HAZEKURA TO
BE A VERY
INTERESTING
INDIVIDUAL.

AND?



DID
YOU
LEARN
ANYTHING?

WHILE HOLDING
DOWN A LECTURER'S
POSITION AT NITTO
UNIVERSITY, YOU'VE
ALSO STUDIED ETHNIC
MINORITIES ALL OVER
THE WORLD-- THEIR
LANGUAGES, CUSTOMS,
RELICS...

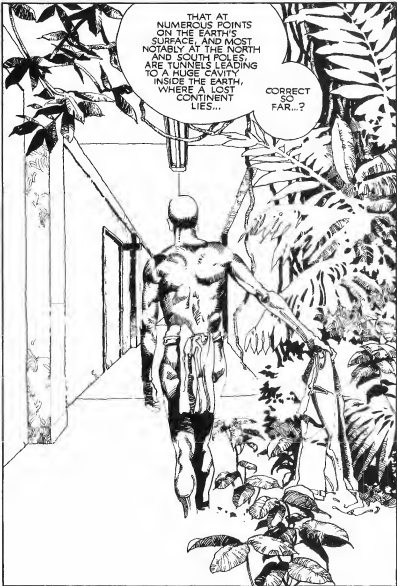
IN 1953, YOU REACHED CERTAIN CONCLUSIONS, WHICH YOU REPORTED AT AN ACADEMIC CONFERENCE THAT YEAR.

NAMELY...

KSSSHHH

THAT AT
NUMEROUS POINTS
ON THE EARTH'S
SURFACE, AND MOST
NOTABLY AT THE NORTH
AND SOUTH POLES,
ARE TUNNELS LEADING
TO A HUGE CAVITY
INSIDE THE EARTH,
WHERE A LOST
CONTINENT
LIES...

CORRECT
SO
FAR...?



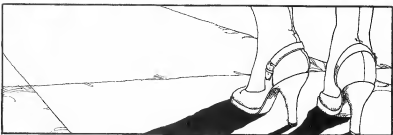
AND?



YOU
LOST YOUR
TENURE AT
NITTO, BUT
DR. TONEH AND
OTHERS AT
TEITO UNIVERSITY
SUPPORTED
YOU.



IN
RECOGNITION
OF YOUR
INVESTIGATIONS
IN GREENLAND,
YOU WERE
ASKED TO
PARTICIPATE
IN THE
SHIRASE
PROJECT.





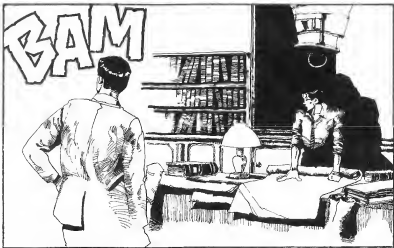
YOUR
RESEARCH
IS DEAD
RIGHT,
MR. NARUSE.



AND
YOUR
THEORY
... ?



WELL,
I'M
CONVINCED
IT'S
CORRECT...
NATURALLY.















I
THINK
SO.



WHAT
IN HELL
WAS
THAT?
THAT
ANIMAL?!

ONE I
SUSPECT YOU'VE
NEVER SEEN
BEFORE -- IT'S
FIFTY THOUSAND
YEARS OLD. IT'S
UNTHINKABLE
THAT ONE
COULD BE
ALIVE TODAY,
BUT...



AND
THAT
WOMAN
?!

I HAVE NO
IDEA. BUT SINCE
SHE TRIED
TO WARN US,
SHE'S OBVIOUSLY
NOT OUR
ENEMY.



LET'S
GO
AFTER
THEM.



DAMN,
THIS IS
HOPELESS.

THE RAIN'S
WASHED
AWAY ALL
TRACES
OF THE
BLOOD.



DOES
IT
HURT?



Huh?

YOUR ARM.
IT LOOKS
PRETTY BAD,
PROFESSOR.





Uh...
SO IT
DOES.

ANYWAY,
GUESS WE
SHOULD CALL
IT A NIGHT
AND MAKE A
FRESH START
TOMORROW.





FOR GOD'S
SAKE

!!

BAM



HOW
MANY
YEARS
HAVE YOU
BEEN A
JOURNALIST,
ANYWAY?!

YOU WERE
SUPPOSED
TO GO TO
DR. HAZEKURA'S
TO GET THE
RESULTS OF
THE SHIRASE
INVESTIGA-
TION!



SO WHAT
IS THIS...
THIS
CRAP
ABOUT A
SABRE-
TOOTH
TIGER??

YOU
DECIDE
TO TRY
OUT FOR
A JOB
WITH THE
TABLOIDS
?!

BUT
I WAS
THERE!
I SAW
THE WHOLE
THING
MYSELF!

SAY,
CHIEF!



KIRINO'S
DAUGHTER HAS
IDENTIFIED THE
BODY. AND THE
COPS'RE STILL
SAYING A
STRAY DOG
DID IT.



KIRINO'S
DAUGHTER?

OH, HEY,
NARUSE--
SHE
ASKED FOR
DIRECTIONS
TO YOUR PLACE.

SOME-
THING
ABOUT
BUSINESS
WITH DR.
HAZEKURA.





THE
REASON
I CALLED
ON YOU SO
SUDDENLY
...

...IS TO
GIVE
YOU
THIS.

MY
FATHER
TOLD ME
TO BRING IT
TO YOU IF
ANYTHING
HAPPENED
TO HIM.

WHAT
IS
IT?

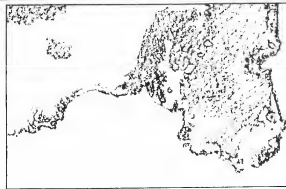
WELL,
LET'S
SEE.

I
DON'T
KNOW.
HE TOLD
ME
NOT TO
LOOK
INSIDE.

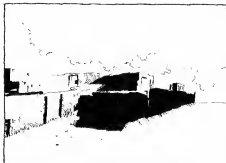




**Dear Dr. Hazekura:
Please forgive
my impropriety
in delivering this
letter to you so
suddenly, without
any proper
introduction.*



**My daughter
Yoshiko has
brought you a
document of great
value. It was the
motive for a top
secret military
operation during
the last war, one
of supposedly
vital importance
to the welfare of
our homeland.*



"I decided to give this to you after reading an article in the Tokyo News today, July 30. Your article about the incident involving the polar expeditionary plane Shirase bore a striking resemblance to the Army's secret research."



"In 1931, I was a post-graduate student..."

"...when I travelled to China to do excavation work with Dr. Meng Tsung-Wang, an archeologist from Shanghai."

"It was on an expedition to central Asia that year that I discovered this document in the Karakorum ruins in Mongolia.

"There were several baffling aspects to this discovery.

"First of all, the object of our expedition was to trace the origins of ancient man. But inexplicably, this map was found in a stratum containing dinosaur fossils.

"According to legends of certain ethnic minorities in central Asia, traces of the capital of the great Uighur empire, which flourished in the distant past, could be found under the ruins of Karakorum.

CASPIAN
SEA

ARAL
SEA

LAKE
BAIKAL

GREAT UIGHUR EMPIRE

GOWI DESERT

TARIM
BASIN

INDIA

"It is said to have appeared around one million years ago--that is, about the end of the Tertiary period of the Cenozoic era."

"This great Uighur Empire has nothing to do with the Uighur region of Sinkiang Province that we know today."

"One million years ago: the estimated time of the birth of the human race. By geological reckoning, it is inconceivable that either dinosaurs or an advanced civilization could have existed then."*

* Until 1959, when fossils of *Zinjanthropus boisei* were dated, Homo Sapiens was generally thought to have originated one million years ago. The estimated time of *Zinjanthropus*' appearance is 1.75 million years ago.

"Dr. Meng was extremely intrigued by this riddle, and wanted to find corroborative evidence."

"He took the map with him back to Shanghai and spent half a year studying it."

"How could ancient man have drawn such an accurate map of such a high-latitude region? How did he produce a map that would remain intact for one million years?"



"And did the territory shown on this map, unknown to us, really exist?"



"There were so many riddles, and every one defied solution."

"The next year, in 1932, just a few days before the outbreak of the Shanghai incident, Dr. Meng called me into his library. This is what he said to me:"



"Kirino, this map holds a secret that the Earth, in its great silence has never divulged. Though hard to believe, we must accept the existence of a lost continent and an unknown race of people. Take this map and return to Japan. I am old, and I doubt that I can pursue my studies much longer. You are still young; finish my research and solve this mystery."



"After returning home, I labored as an obscure scholar for more than ten years, pouring all my energy into the effort to complete this research."

"Never in my wildest dreams did I guess that it would be regarded as having tremendous military significance when the war came."



"In 1942, I was drafted into the army. One day I was summoned to the Army Science Research Institute."

"But the men I met were not with the Institute, which was engaged in weapons development at the time. Rather, they were the top brass in charge of strategic planning."

"I was sworn to secrecy, and given my mission."

"I was to conduct an on-site survey, confirm the existence of the unknown territory shown on the map, and report on possible invasion routes and its potential value as a strategic base."

"I vehemently protested against this military use of my research, but to no avail. One individual could do little in a nation at war."

"I was assigned to the Kiska garrison in the Aleutian Islands.

KISKA ISLAND



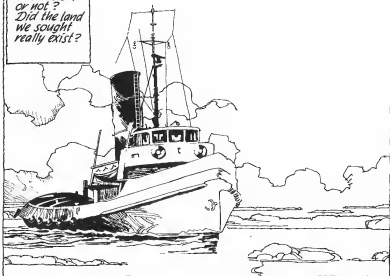
"Our orders were to elude the enemy, pass through the Bering Strait, and land on Vrangelya Island at 72 degrees north latitude, 100 degrees longitude. Then we would drive amphibious mechanized sleds across the ice and search for the entrance to the unknown territory.

"Together with a select force of five specially-trained officers and men, I boarded a submarine and headed for the Bering Strait.



"I cannot tell you what happened after that.

*"Was I
able to
reach my
destination,
or not?
Did the land
we sought
really exist?"*



*"For
some reason,
I have no
memory
whatsoever
of that
period."*



*"When I was
rescued, unconscious,
by a Norwegian
fishing boat,
eleven years had
elapsed."*





"All I had left with me was this map, which I had sewn into the lining of my jacket. All my other records were gone-- where, I have no idea



"Dr. Hasekura, I have told my daughter to make sure this gets into your hands should anything happen to me."

"I pray that it will aid in your own research. Please use it to solve the mystery of my lost days and those of the Shirase, and to complete the research of Dr. Meng and I, Soichi Kirino."



"I beg
you to
disregard the
impertinence
of this old
man, a total
stranger to
you, and heed
his humble
request."



MISS
KIRINO.



YES?



THANK
YOU FOR
BRINGING
THIS
TO ME.



THIS MAP
IS NOT ONLY
YOUR FATHER'S
LEGACY, BUT A
PRICELESS
GIFT TO
THE WHOLE
WORLD.



THAT'S
VERY
KIND
OF
YOU.

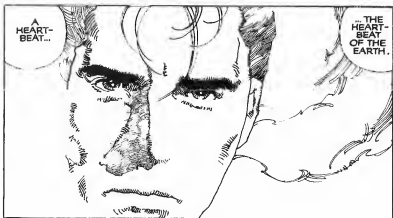


I'LL CONTACT THE
KYODO PRESS AGENCY
RIGHT AWAY, AND
HOLD A PUBLIC
HEARING THE DAY
AFTER TOMORROW. I
HOPE YOU'LL
ATTEND.





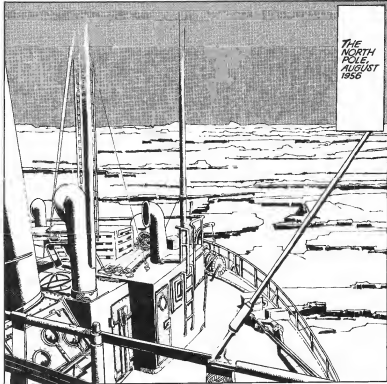


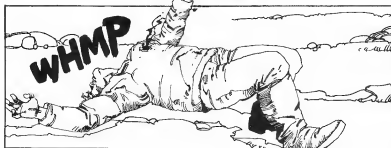




Akihiro Yamada's
LOST CONTINENT

THE
NORTH
POLE,
AUGUST
1956











TO BE CONTINUED...

Next month in
Akihiro Yamada's
LOST CONTINENT





1943!

The Imperial Japanese Aleutian campaign against Soviet Russia launches the Shirase exploratory mission to find a lost Arctic nation—and the expedition vanishes without a trace!

1956!

Journalist Naruse Osamu has joined forces with archaeology professor Hazekura Masamune, organizer of the ill-fated Shirase expedition, to research the past of Kirino, a stranger who was searching for Hazekura before being killed by a sabre-tooth tiger, supposedly extinct for fifty-thousand years! Kirino mysteriously disappeared in the 1943 Aleutian campaign, but reappeared in 1954, his whereabouts for the last eleven years...unknown!

The mystery deepens as Naruse and Hazekura are attacked by the sabre-tooth tiger! Who is the beautiful but elusive woman who warned them about the beast? What is the significance of Kirino's records, which pinpoint an ancient civilization littered with dinosaur fossils? There must be a connection between Kirino, the woman, the tiger...and the enigmatic

Lost Continent!



\$3.50
\$4.95 CANADA

